

C. IN THE SPECIFICATION (CLEAN SHEET)

Paragraph beginning at line 5 on page 1:

This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/059,252, filed on September 18, 1997 and the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 to U.S. Application Serial No. 09/157,257, filed on September 18, 1998.

Paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16:

The SSA may vary widely in both overall size and amino acid composition. The SSA may have a molecular weight of about 40 to about 90 kDa, inclusive of all specific values and subranges therebetween. In specific embodiments of the present invention, the SSA has a molecular weight of about 50 kDa or 85 kDa. Examples of specific amino acid sequences of the inventive SSAs are shown in Figures 2-4 (SEQ ID NO: 4, 6, and 8).

Paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21

The present invention also provides isolated and purified nucleic acid sequences (e.g. recombinant DNAs) which encode the SSAs. Specific examples of nucleotide sequences encoding the SSA of the present invention are shown in Figures 2-4 (SEQ ID NO: 3, 5, and 7). All nucleotide sequences encoding a particular SSA are included in the scope of the present invention. Selecting a nucleic acid encoding a particular amino acid sequence may be readily accomplished by using the well-established genetic code relating the nucleic acid sequence of a codon sequence to the amino acid sequence encoded thereby. The genetic code is provided by R.H. Abeles et al, Biochemistry, Jones

[illegible]

D. IN THE SPECIFICATION (MARKED VERSION)

Please insert – and the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 to U.S. Application Serial No. 09/157,257, filed on September 18, 1998 – after “September 18, 1997”.

At page 5, line 20, please delete “3, 5, and 7” and substitute therefore – 4, 6, and 8
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At page 5, line 23, please delete “4, 6, and 8” and substitute therefore – 3, 5, and 7
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II. REMARKS

Applicants have filed a divisional pursuant to 37 CFR §1.53(b). The amendment above is to cancel claims and pursue non-elected claims in a previous application. The amendment is not done for reasons of patentability under 35 USC §§101, 102, 103, and/or 112 and no estoppel is created by such amendment.

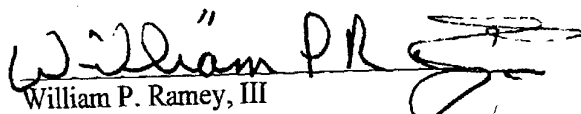
III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request a granting of a filing date to this divisional application. Further, Applicants respectfully request the entering of the preliminary amendment enclosed herein. The application is believed in a condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request such action. Please call the below undersigned attorney

for any assistance in securing allowance of this application. Please charge deposit
account number 02-2334 for any required fees.

Date: 1/23/02

Sincerely,


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